

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Stephen Kontos, Reg. No. 60,337, on September 5, 2008.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A multinode arrangement for establishing a communication network for transmitting information between a first object and a second object, comprising:

a plurality of nodes defining a plurality of node pairs;

wherein the plurality of nodes includes at least a first node and a second node defining one of the plurality of node pairs, wherein the first node and the second node are connected by and communicate through a hardwire connection;

wherein the plurality of nodes includes at least a third node in another of the plurality of node pairs that communicates with at least the first node or the second node through an RF communication link; and

wherein said first node is configured to prevent interference of communications by refraining refrain from communicating with one of said second node and said third

node for a predetermined amount of time in response to said second node and said third node communicating with one another.

15. (Currently Amended) A multinode arrangement for establishing a communication network for transmitting information between a first object and a second object, comprising:

a communication means for communicating information from the first object to the second object across a plurality of nodes ~~that communicate through at least one of RF and hardwire communication links;~~

wherein the plurality of nodes includes at least a first node and a second node defining one of the plurality of node pairs, wherein the first node and the second node are connected by and communicate through a hardwire connection;

wherein the plurality of nodes includes at least a third node in another of the plurality of node pairs that communicates with at least the first node or the second node through an RF communication link;

a reestablishing means for reestablishing a communication link between at least two of the plurality of nodes when an original communication link between the two of the plurality of nodes is broken; and

a collision prevention means for preventing interference of communications between one node and at least two other nodes for a predetermined amount of time in response to said two other nodes communicating with one another.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a communication network between a first object and a second object, comprising:

providing a plurality of node pairs, wherein each of the node pairs comprises at least two nodes that are connected by and communicate through a hardware connection;

distributing the plurality of node pairs between the first object and the second object;

establishing a communication network by linking nodes of node pairs with nodes of other node pairs, wherein the linking comprises RF communication links; and

configuring one of said nodes to prevent interference of communications by refraining ~~refrain~~ from communicating with at least two other nodes for a predetermined amount of time in response to said two other nodes communicating with one another.

#### **REASON FOR ALLOWANCE**

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claim 1 and corresponding claims 15 and 19, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or render obvious

"wherein the first node and the second node are connected by and communicate through a hardware connection;

wherein the plurality of nodes includes at least a third node in another of the plurality of node pairs that communicates with at least the first node or the second node through an RF communication link; and

wherein said first node is configured to prevent interference of communications by refraining from communicating with one of said second node and said third node for a predetermined amount of time in response to said second node and said third node communicating with one another”

in combination with the other limitations of the claims.

5. Dependent claims 2, 4-14, 17, 18 and 20-23, being further limiting to the independent claims, and enabled by the specification, are also allowed.
6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LUAT PHUNG whose telephone number is (571)270-3126. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM, F 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huy Vu can be reached on 571-272-3155. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2616

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/L. P./

Examiner, Art Unit 2616

/Huy D. Vu/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2616